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The Tach'en Islands

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Geography and Economy

- 1. The Tach'en group of islands off the Chekiang coast contains two medium-sized islands, Shangtach'en (121-53, 28-32) and Hsiatach'en (121-54, 28-28), and numerous smaller islands. The two large islands are each approximately four square miles in area.
 - a. Hsiatach'en is extremely ragged with steep hills and a very few small level areas. The coast is for the most part steep and rocky with very few landing areas. Hsiatach'en has few trees and these consist of palms and a medium-sized variety similar to maples; most trees are in the vicinity of villages. The island is covered with gress except for the rocky coast and the cultivated areas. Hsiatach'en is extensively cultivated, especially on the slopes. The main crops are sweet potatoes and peamuts. Very little rice is grown. Water is very scarce on Hsiatach'en and has to be transported from Shangtach'en.
 - b. Shangtach'en has a number of good beaches. The ridges are flat except for a hill rising in the north central part of the island. With the exception of portions of the coastline, this island is not rocky. The top soil and the subsoil vary from one to eight or ten feet in depth. Shangtach'en has the same kinds of trees as does Hsiatach'en but there are more of them. There is very little vegetation on the northern part of the island. This island is also covered with grass except on the rocky coast and in cultivated areas. On the southern part of the island the grass is very dense, and in some places it is knee high. The crops are the same as those on Hsiatach'en, but cultivation on slopes is less extensive. Shangtach'en has an abundant supply of water from small streams, springs, and wells. Most of the water is obtained on the lower levels. There are shallow wells about ten feet deep, however, on the higher levels. Shangtach'en is well traversed by footpaths, suitable for use in all types of weather. Some of these paths can be widened sufficiently, with a minimum of labor, to handle one-way jeep traffic.
- 2. The following features are common to both islands:

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concrete, is available. No lumber or other construction material is available on the islands.

- b. Landing areas. Sampans may be landed at the landing areas at any time. The difference between high and low tide is approximately 12 feet. The harbor between the two islands is large and well-protected. It will accommodate any size of ship and furnishes a good landing area for flying boats. There are no airfields on the islands. There is, however, a piece of fairly level ground, 1,500 feet by 60 to 90 feet, which would be suitable for the construction of a landing strip for small planes. Such a project would not involve too much work.
- c. Weather. The climate is cold and damp during the winter months. There is much rain and during December and January there is snow. The prevailing wind is from the northeast, and summer months are cold and clear, except for occasional storms and rain.
- d. Population. The total population is 12,000. This includes naval head-quarters, 1,300 marines, and 1,600 guerrillas. Most of the local populace is engaged in fishing and farming. There are shopkeepers and carpenters also.
- e. Labor. There is an abundant supply of labor on both islands, but there are very few skilled men. The rate of pay for common labor is from eighteen tentwenty New Taiwan dollars per day for short-time work, and much less for regular work. Some carpenters and stone masons are available. Sampans with two men can be hired for NT\$20.00 per day. Laborers prefer to receive most of their wages in rice.
- f. Fuel. There is no natural source of fuel on the Tach'ens. Coal can be purchased at NT\$362.00 a ton and firewood at NT\$30.00 for 100 catties.
- g. Food. The Chinese Nationalist government furnishes the guerrilla forces with rice. Other food must be purchased on the local market. Foods available on the local market, at the following prices, are:

i) rice NT\$10.00 for 6 to 8 catties

(2) sweet potatoes NT\$ 0.50 per cattle
(3) onions .50 per cattle

(4) salt 1.00 per cattle (5) cooking oil 8.50 per cattle

(6) fish The price varies, but this is the cheapest and most plentiful food.

h. Money. The standard currency used in the Tach'ens is the New Taiwan dollar. Silver dollars may also be used, at the rate of one silver dollar to NT\$10.00.

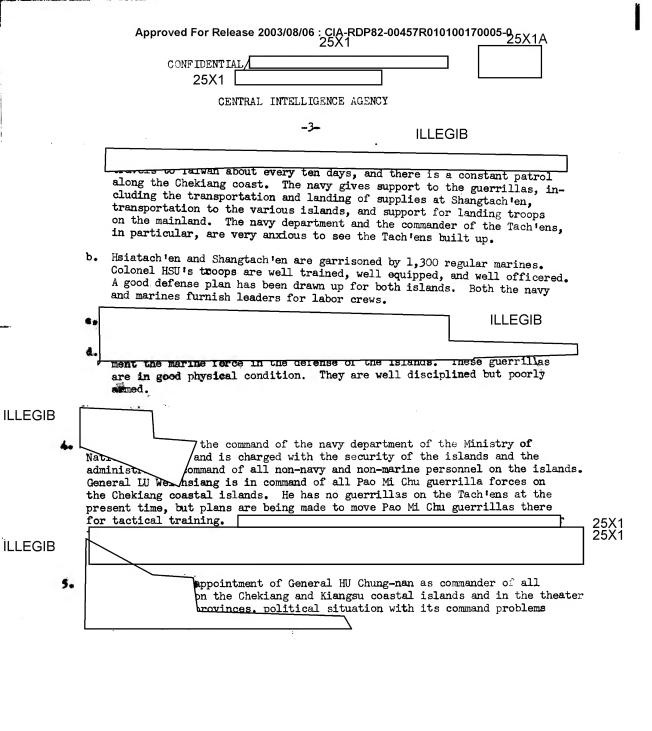
Military

3. Navy Captain CHOU is in command of both Hsiatach'en and Shangtach'en, and marine Colonel HSU is the deputy commander. Although Captain CHOU does not have operational command of the guerrillas, he exerts a certain amount of control because he controls their rice. Details on the military units on the islands follow:

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a. \	Navy. T	he Nationalist	naval headquarters	for the Chekiang coa destroyer escorts an	st is at
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